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12 March 2019

Victorian Electoral Commission  
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Dear Sir/Madam

**VEC Local Council Representation Review - Submission on Boroondara City Council 2019**

I wish to advocate to this review, the adoption of multi-councillor wards in Boroondara.

I advocate this for the following reasons:

- Under the current single councillor ward situation, the successful councillor effectively requires 50% of the vote
  - Consequently, we have 10 mini-elections which together with the operation of dummy candidates and the unacknowledged support of local MP's offices in council elections, makes it very difficult for those of alternative views to be elected.
- Wards that elect three councillors would reduce the required quota to 25%
- What I think we are now seeing is a heavily caucused council
- Multi-councillor wards encourages a healthy level of competition that is good for residents
- The theory that a single councillor ward provides better service to the ratepayer has not been seen in practice
- The current system has facilitated the loss of accountability mechanisms over the last decade, including Public Question Time
- Multi-councillor representation in each ward may reduce costs
- No electoral system would be perfect, but a system incorporating multi-councillor wards might provide us with a genuine opportunity to open the organisation to the better debate on key issues and genuine elector participation
- It has been clearly seen over several years that some councillors do not "put in" and this is a huge disadvantage in single councillor wards

I trust that the VEC will take my views into account in this very important review.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]  
Syd Herron